KORDAMENTHA

KordaMentha

Location
APJ

Industry
FSI/Professional Services

Company
KordaMentha

Use Case
- VSI – VMware® vSphere®
- Database – Microsoft® SQL Server

Business Transformation
The FlashStack solution accelerated time to value for the company's IT infrastructure projects. Physical management of storage is now inherently better, with zero management overhead.

Challenges
- The business required a modern infrastructure solution with higher performance to support a hybrid cloud and migration strategy across the entire organization.
- Physical management of storage was time-consuming due to reliance on traditional on-premises workloads.

- Maintenance and colocation space costs continued to increase.

IT Transformation
- Significant cost savings of AUD$400,000 over the next four years.
- All applications respond instantly with zero latency, which benefits personnel across the entire organization, from IT managers to end users.
- Less time is spent maintaining backup infrastructure—from three days per week to a few hours per week. Time and resources can be go back into strategic business initiatives.

Building a best-in-class system for the future

KordaMentha is an advisory and investment firm that provides restructuring, turnaround, real estate, and forensic support for companies and their stakeholders. The firm was established in 2002 when its founding partners were appointed administrators over Ansett Airlines. KordaMentha has grown

from its heritage in insolvency to one of Australia's foremost multidisciplinary advisory firms.

The firm is headquartered in Melbourne with a total of 350 staff spanning offices in Brisbane, Perth, Sydney, Townsville, Auckland, Singapore, and the recent addition of Jakarta. KordaMentha provides services to creditors and equity holders, financiers and lenders, legal firms, and government bodies in Australia and across the globe.

In addition to its supportive and collaborative culture, IT has been a crucial factor in driving KordaMentha's growth. Storage is a core requirement for the business, underpinning everything from the speed of IT operations to

simplifying applications for end-users, including clerical staff. During his nine years with the company, Director of Technology Ryan Wadsworth has seen KordaMentha develop more and more strengths and become a tier-one advisory firm.

"Slow storage means slow everything, from generating finance reports to running maintenance and replacement checks, and time is valuable in our business," said Wadsworth. "Selecting the right storage solution removes the bottleneck and simplifies the environment, which filters down through the business, right through to our clients, so finding the ideal match was extremely important."

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> **RYAN WADSWORTH**
> Director of Technology

KordaMentha had what it considered an adequate infrastructure solution for its environment, but reliance on traditional on-premises workloads resulted in ongoing heavy maintenance costs, which were counterintuitive to the business. The firm wanted to refresh the environment as part of an overarching cloud migration strategy. This required a forward-looking solution; one that would offer a smaller physical footprint, provide higher reliability, increase compliance, remove lengthy migration timelines, and significantly reduce maintenance bills.

"*We'll never have to replace a SAN again. This is a significant change to the legacy storage model.*"

RYAN WADSWORTH
Director of Technology

Performance, simplicity, and scalability key criteria

To continue as a best-in-class advisory firm, KordaMentha required the newest storage solution, one that would support its hybrid cloud infrastructure model. It investigated the flash space with a legacy storage vendor.

However Wadsworth said that Pure Storage simplicity and cost savings were unrivaled. "The Pure scale-up option provided a more suitable solution than the other vendor's scale out option, as we weren't required to introduce extra hardware. Once you buy the Pure solution and plug it in, it's ready to operate within 15 minutes, which bodes well for the future simplicity of the product."

Pure Storage scalability wasn't the only thing that made sense for Wadsworth. "The Pure Storage maintenance model is ground-breaking: the longer you hold on, the less it costs over time," he said.

All of KordaMentha's workloads—with everything from finance and

analytics reporting to Microsoft SQL Server and Remote Desktop Services—now sit on FlashStack, which includes a FlashArray™//M20 from Pure Storage, Cisco® UCS® C-series servers, a Cisco Nexus® 5000 Series data center switch, and VMware vSphere. Wadsworth said KordaMentha's FlashStack deployment could not have been simpler.

The Pure Storage engineering team physically installed the Pure Storage FlashArray//M20 in half a day, and a week later, the entire environment was running on it. In stark comparison, the former storage vendor deployment took three months.

"Pure Storage is a highly driven, highly intelligent organization. It took the team less than a day to configure FlashStack, which is the best infrastructure experience I've ever had," said Wadsworth.

FlashStack is a flexible, all-flash, converged infrastructure solution combining best-in-class in compute, network, and storage hardware, plus virtualization

software. These highly efficient components reduce power, cooling, and data center costs. As a single, integrated architecture, FlashStack speeds time to deployment, lowers overall IT costs, and reduces deployment risk."

Increased performance and simplified management

The benefits of the FlashStack implementation were noticeable immediately. The Pure Storage footprint is significantly smaller than the former storage vendor deployment as multiple racks have been reduced to a single rack, while performance has improved significantly.

Most noticeable is the speed with which processes are now completed. Wadsworth said generating a financial report would previously take six-and-a-half hours, and virtual machine deployment time, up to 10 minutes. With FlashStack, these same tasks take 15 minutes and 10 seconds respectively. Business reports run faster, and these time savings are a substantial benefit to the business.

Significant reductions in cost are another key benefit. KordaMentha's former storage model resulted in massive maintenance bills. However, the Pure Evergreen™ Storage model will deliver a saving of AUD$400,000 on maintenance and replacement costs in the first four years following the deployment.

Simple, non-disruptive maintenance is also an important benefit. Since deploying FlashStack, KordaMentha has gone from spending three days to a few hours per week on system backups. The former storage disk needed to be replaced once per month, which took several hours, but with Pure, the physical

management of the device is much simpler.

Looking longer term, Wadsworth believes FlashStack from Pure Storage and Cisco will completely remove the storage management burden from his team. SAN upgrades will no longer be required, fundamentally changing the storage lifecycle.

"The forklift replacement model is no longer required; Pure Storage provides new controllers every three years, ensuring the hardware is modern and up to date," Wadsworth explained. "This happens seamlessly, and while online, with zero down time. If things remain status quo, we'll never have to

replace a SAN again. This is a significant change to the legacy storage model.

Wadsworth knew the simplicity of the solution would be a key advantage from the outset, as the Pure installation was conducted in less than one hour. The resulting reduction in admin time spent monitoring and maintaining storage infrastructure on a regular basis has freed up Wadsworth and his team to focus on more strategic initiatives within the business.

"Improved performance results in a significant uplift for staff. They can do their job more efficiently and focus on new projects rather than managing storage," Wadsworth said.

KordaMentha is now in its 14th year of operation. Throughout all of that time, FlashStack with Pure Storage FlashArray is one of the only solutions that has delivered obvious benefits to the personnel across the entire organization, from the IT team to end-users, including accountants and personal assistants. All of the applications are instantaneous with zero load time.

Wadsworth summed this up. "For such a complex operation, the use is so simple."

He added that, as well as offering a superior technical solution, the Pure Storage team has been fantastic to deal with.

"Pure Storage engineers are the smartest people on the planet. They simplified the decision even further," he noted.

Based on its outstanding experience with Cisco and Pure Storage, KordaMentha is currently evaluating FlashStack's advanced features, such as snapshots and the replication option for disaster recovery.

"We're only three months into our deployment," he said. "We've got the right foundations in place so the future is looking extremely promising."

Products and Services

Unified Computing FlashStack Converged Infrastructure:
- *Cisco® UCS® C-series servers*
- *Pure Storage FlashArray™//M20*
- *VMware® vSphere®*

Cisco Networking and Security Solutions:
- *Cisco Nexus® 5000 Series data center switch*

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